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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/797,597

03/11/2004

Shingo Inaishi

2018-860

3872

23117

7590

08/01/2006

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THIEM D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3729

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-6 and 13-19, drawn to a method of manufacturing a rotor, classified in class 29, subclass 606;
 - II. Claims 7, 11 and 12, drawn to an alternative method of manufacturing a rotor, classified in class 29, subclass 605;
 - III. Claim 8, drawn to another method of manufacturing a rotor, classified in class 29, subclass 609;
 - IV. Claim 9, drawn to another alternative method of manufacturing a rotor, classified in class 29, subclass 598;
 - V. Claim 10, drawn to a further method of manufacturing a rotor, classified in class 29, subclass 596.
2. Inventions V and I are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the method of method of manufacturing a rotor as recited in Group V does not require bobbins with flanges thereof, as required by Group I. The subcombination, Invention I, has separate utility such as using a width of the weight range of a group made larger than that of the weight range of the other groups.

Inventions V and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the method of method of manufacturing a rotor as recited in Group V does not require a measured weight of the outer cores thereof, as required by Group II. The subcombination, Invention II, has separate utility such as forming outer core pieces from metal sheet.

Inventions V and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the method of method of manufacturing a rotor as recited in Group V does not

require a measured thickness of the metal sheet thereof, as required by Group III. The subcombination, Invention III, has separate utility such as punching out the outer core pieces from metal sheet.

Inventions V and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the method of manufacturing a rotor as recited in Group V does not require a measured length of the laminated outer cores thereof, as required by Group IV. The subcombination, Invention IV, has separate utility such as laminating a number of outer core pieces to form the outer core.

3. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as winding the bobbin back and forth between the first and second flanges. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as winding the bobbin

back and forth between the first and second flanges. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as winding the bobbin back and forth between the first and second flanges. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

4. Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as measuring weight of the winding units. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as measuring weight of the winding units. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

5. Inventions III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as measuring a length of the laminated outer cores. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for each Group is not required for other Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. A telephone call was made to the office of Larry S. Nixon (703-816-4000) on 7/27/06 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicants traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicants should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-4568. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

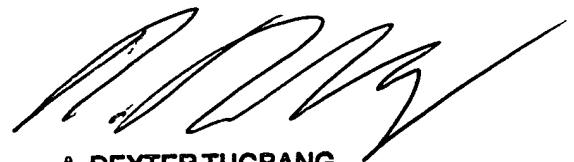
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tim Phan
Examiner
Art Unit 3729

tp
July 27, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Dexter Tugbang', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**A. DEXTER TUGBANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**